EADS NORTH AMERICA DEFENSE

July 25, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Redistribution of Spectrum to the 2 GHz Mobile Satellite Service Providers

Dear Ms. Dortch:

EADS North America Defense Company is respectfully commenting on FCC dockets FCC 05-133 and 05-134, IB Dockets No 05-220 and 05-221, issued on June 29th 2005. EADS North America Defense Company is responsible for all EADS military and homeland defense business in the United States.

We believe that a competitive mobile satellite service ("MSS") industry is in the public interest. We applaud the Commission for redistributing spectrum surrendered by the Boeing Company and Iridium 2 GHz LLC to the remaining licensees in the 2 GHz MSS band.[1] However, the proposed 2 x 6.67 MHz assignment to be provided to each licensee falls short of the baseline 2 x 10 MHz necessary to deliver the full benefits of an MSS with ancillary terrestrial component ("ATC") to the public. Accordingly, EADS North America Defense Company urges the Commission to promptly redistribute the 2 x 6.67 MHz of unassigned 2 GHz MSS spectrum[2] on a *pro rata* basis to TMI Communications and Company Limited Partnership, which is affiliated with TerreStar Networks Inc., and ICO Global Communications (Holdings) Limited (collectively, "the 2 GHz providers").

The requested spectrum redistribution would serve pressing homeland security needs by allowing the 2 GHz providers to offer affordable service to millions of users across the country – including those in the public safety community. Unlike terrestrial networks, an MSS/ATC network is truly ubiquitous. First responders with MSS/ATC-equipped handsets could communicate to and from virtually *any* location in the continental United States, including the most rural areas as well as densely-populated "urban canyons." Furthermore, because

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[1] *See* FCC Docket FCC 05-134, IB Docket No. 05-221; released June 29, 2005.

[2] As the Commission's Public Notice notes, this "unassigned" spectrum represents the MSS spectrum recently surrendered by Celsat Inc. *See* FCC Docket FCC 05-133, IB Docket No. 05-220; released June 29, 2005.

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MSS/ATC networks are redundant, communicating with satellites as well as terrestrial base stations, they are considerably less vulnerable to attack than terrestrial-only wireless services and the wireline telephone network.[3] If MSS/ATC technology becomes widespread, it would clearly be an invaluable tool during times of emergency. The benefits of greater capacity and related economies of scale necessary to widely deploy MSS/ATC-enabled handsets requires access to sufficient spectrum.

With sufficient spectrum, the 2 GHz providers could provide affordable but sophisticated mobile voice and data services to consumers in traditionally underserved areas. Congress and the Commission have appropriately focused on the need for ushering the next generation of mobile communications technology accessible to *all* Americans. Providing the 2 GHz providers with the baseline 2 x 10 MHz assignment necessary to deploy a robust MSS/ATC service will honor that commitment.

We assert that the Commission should ensure that the unique public interest benefits of MSS/ATC technology reach as many consumers as possible by allocating the additional spectrum to the 2 GHz providers. This action would benefit first responders, homeland security agencies, and rural consumers. Accordingly, EADS North America Defense Company urges the Commission to promptly make a *pro rata* redistribution of the unassigned 2 GHz MSS spectrum to TMI/TerreStar and ICO.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis J. Burnett

Vice President

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[3] *See, e.g.*, Comments of TerreStar Networks Inc., WT Docket 05-157, at 1 (filed April 28, 2005), *citing* 19 FCC Rcd. 16830, 16836 (2004) (discussing the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and noting that "satellite communications … were used to initiate the movement of equipment and personnel into the affected areas for restoration purposes and to coordinate their work.").